

**Montana Nurses Association**

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RE: SB 237**Primary seatbelt enforcement for motor vehicle occupants**

As nurses we care for victims of vehicle crashes. We see that seatbelted victims have fewer injuries and less serious injuries. We see the life-long suffering of head injuries, amputations, paralysis, and chronic pain. We see the families of the victims struggle to care for them.

We ask the committee to pass this bill to save lives and reduce suffering.

As nurses we know that there are limited resources to care for victims. We see that even the best insurance doesn't cover all the costs, and many of the victims don't have insurance.

We ask the committee to pass this bill to preserve healthcare resources.

As nurses we understand the importance of choice. We honor our patient's wishes even when we disagree. But this bill isn't about personal choice. It is about public safety. Unrestrained drivers and passengers endanger the lives of all people who use our public highways.

We ask the committee to pass this bill to protect the public safety.

Robert Allen
Executive Director